Me'

DDCI WEEKEND READING FILE

7 January 1977

TAB A

3

Initial Draft of NIE 36.1-1-77: EGYPT -- 1977. In view of your absence next week, I am including this initial draft of the Egypt NIE in your weekend reading file today (ditto the Rhodesian estimate draft [Tab B]). There is a satisfactory summary of the key points on pages 1-6.

TAB B

NIE 72.1-1-77: Rhodesia -- Locking Ahead. It is hoped to arrive at a coordinated Agency draft of this estimate by 17 January, Unfortunately, there is no summary, perhaps because the material is all rather familiar: A peaceful settlement of the Rhodesian situation will frustrate Soviet and Chinese aims on the African continent. It will be hard to achieve an agreement, however, because of the difficulties in: arriving at suitable assurances for the white community; determining control, during the transition period, of the important Ministries of Interior and Defense; integrating blacks, particularly the guerrilla forces, into the new government. On the other hand, there are some advantages for the whites, and for all Rhodesians, in a negotiated settlement: more support from outside; an end to UN sanctions; etc. Nevertheless, because of the above and other problems, it is vital that Britain play an active role during the transition period.

Recent military confrontations have left the white Rhodesians with the feeling that the guerrilla forces are not as potent as they once seemed. This has reduced the desire for a settlement on the part of the whites. Should a settlement not take place, two possible outcomes are: no agreement at all (in this case, Vorster's attitude toward Rhodesia would be

25X1

